

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 549

INFO USDEL RIYADH

AMCONGEN DHARAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1781

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (MCGOVERN, GEORGE), SA

SUBJECT: CODEL MCGOVERN

REF: STATE 53471

1. AMBASSADOR LOOKS FORWARD TO ARRIVAL OF CODEL MCGOVERN.
HE IS CERTAIN SAG WILL APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH A HIGH-RANKING CONGRESSIONAL FIGURE
AT A TIME US-SAUDI RELATIONS ARE THE SUBJECT OF INCREASING
INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. AKINS INVITE SENATOR MCGOVERN AND
A MEMBER OF HIS STAFF TO BE THEIR HOUSEGUESTS WHILE IN
JIDDA. SHOULD SENATOR ACCEPT, DCM HUME HORAN WOULD BE HAPPY
IF MR. TILMAN COULD BE HIS HOUSEGUEST THAT NIGHT. (AMBASSADOR'S
AND DCM'S RESIDENCES A SHORT WALK FROM EACH OTHER ON EMBASSY
COMPOUND.)

3. ESCORT OFFICER WILL BE DCM HORAN. AN INITIAL DRAFT
ITINERARY FOLLOWS:

4. AMBASSADOR TRAVELING TO RIYADH, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12,
WILL INFORM PALACE OF SENATOR'S PLANS TO VISIT SAUDI
ARABIA, AND WILL REQUEST AUDIENCE WITH KING FAISAL.
IN VIEW OF THE VERY LARGE NUMBER OF HIGH RANKING VISITORS
COMING TO RIYADH TO SEE THE KING, ROYAL DIWAN (OFFICE OF
PALACE HOUSEHOLD) APPRECIATES AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS
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POSSIBLE.

5. EMBASSY SUGGESTS SENATOR MEET WITH AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF FOLLOWING SAUDI OFFICIALS WHO MAY BE IN-COUNTRY DURING HIS VISIT: (A) MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE FAHD BIN ABD AL-AZIZ: A HALF BROTHER OF KING; GENERALLY REGARDED AS THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN SAUDI ARABIA TODAY, AND PERHAPS A LEADING CANDIDATE FOR THE THRONE AFTER FAISAL'S DEPARTURE FROM POWER. IN THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF, FAHD HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY ACTIVE AND INFLUENTIAL, AND IS THE CHAIRMAN ON THE SAUDI SIDE FOR THE US-SAUDI ECONOMIC COMMISSION. HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. (B) MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND AVIATION PRINCE SULTAN BIN ABD AL-AZIZ: A HALF BROTHER OF THE KING, AND A FULL BROTHER OF PRINCE FAHD. ONE OF THE MOST DYNAMIC MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WHO HAS ACQUIRED MUCH EXPERIENCE IN DEFENSE AFFAIRS SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT TO THAT OFFICE IN 1964. HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. (C) MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AHMED ZAKI YAMANI (NO COMMENT NEEDED). (D) MINISTER FOR PLANNING HISHAM NAZER: A BRIGHT, AGGRESSIVE PH.D IN ECONOMICS FROM BERKELEY, WHERE HE ALSO TAUGHT IN THE LATE 1950'S. UNDER HIS DIRECTION, IMPLEMENTATION OF SAUDI ARABIA'S 55 BILLION DOLLAR FIVE YEAR ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WILL COMMENCE IN 1976. (E) ACTING MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM MAS'UD: SINCE THE DEATH OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OMAR SAQQAF IN LATE 1974 MAS'UD HAS BEEN FUNCTIONING MORE OR LESS AS KING'S STAFF ASSISTANT WITHIN THE BUREAUCRACY ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS. NARROW, PEDANTIC, IS CONCERNED MORE WITH MINUTIAE THAN WITH POLICY ISSUES. IN HIS POSITION, HOWEVER, HE CANNOT BE AVOIDED. (F) ABDUL AZIZ QURAISHI: THE NEW GOVERNOR OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN MONETARY AGENCY, QURAISHI GRADUATED FROM USC IN 1961 FORMERLY HEAD ALSO OF RAILWAYS FOR THE KINGDOM. HE MAY BE IN EUROPE. SPECIFIC TIMES FOR THESE APPOINTMENTS PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ESTABLISHED UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE THE SENATOR'S ARRIVAL.

6. A PROPOSED ITINERARY FOR SAUDI ARABIA FOLLOWS:
MONDAY, MARCH 24

1320 ARRIVAL AT JIDDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT VIA SV-748;
AFTER BEING MET BY DCM HUME HORAN, AND OFFICIALS
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FROM THE ROYAL DIWAN AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, CODEL WILL DEPWRT VIA VIP GATE FOR EMBASSY.
(LUNCH WILL HAVE BEEN SERVED DURING CAIRO-JIDDA FLIGHT.)

1345 ARRIVAL AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.
TO BE MET BY AMBASSADOR AND MRS. AKINS. AFTERNOON
MEETINGS AND BRIEFINGS WITH AMBASSADOR, AND MEETINGS
OF COUNTRY TEAM. SENATOR MAY WISH TO TAKE A DRIVE THROUGH

JIDDA.

TUESDAY, MARCH 25
1100 CODEL DEPARTS AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE FOR JIDDA AIRPORT.
1145 DEPARTURE FOR RIYADH VIA SV-738

1300 ARRIVAL RIYADH
SOME CALLS ON THE OFFICIALS LISTED IN PARA 5 MIGHT
BE SCHEDULED IN THE AFTERNOON. IN VIEW OF CODEL'S
INTEREST IN MEETING ARAMCO OFFICIALS, WOULD CODEL
CONSIDER FLIGHT TO DHARAHAN LATE AFTERNOON
OR EARLY EVENING OF MARCH 25 TO MEET WITH ARAMCO
REPRESENTATIVES, HAVE DINNER AND RON DHARAHAN?
(WE WOULD EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ARAMCO AIRCRAFT
OR OF SV-894 DEPARTING RIYADH 1900 AND ARRIVING
DHARAHAN 1945.) CODEL COULD RETURN TO RIYADH MORNING
OF MARCH 26 FOR REMAINDER OF SCHEDULE AT 0800
VIA SV-783 (ARRIVING RIYADH AT 0845) OR VIA ARAMCO
AIRCRAFT

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 26

1635 DEPARTURE FROM RIYADH FOR BEIRUT VIA SV-724

7. WOULD SENATOR MCGOVERN BE WILLING TO MEET FOR 45 MINUTES
TO AN HOUR AFTERNOON MARCH 24 WITH THE STUDENTS AT AMERICAN
COMMUNITY'S PARENTS' COOPERATIVE SCHOOL? THERE ARE
APPROXIMATELY 800 STUDENTS IN FIRST THROUGH NINTH GRADES,
AND SCHOOL WELCOMES THE RARE OPPORTUNITY WHEN CONGRESSMEN
CAN SPEAK TO ITS YOUNG U.S. EXPATRIATES. IT IS LIKELY
THAT SCHOOL WOULD OPEN MEETING ALSO TO INTERESTED PARENTS
IN JIDDA'S COMMUNITY.

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8. WOULD SENATOR MCGOVERN BE AGREEABLE TO SAYING A FEW
WORDS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT UPON HIS
ARRIVAL AT JIDDA AIRPORT? THE ATTITUDE OF THE PRESSMEN
WOULD BE FRIENDLY AND RESPECTFUL. THE SENATOR WOULD BE
ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTION AND
ITS PROSPECTS FOR A SETTLEMENT; IN GENERAL, HOWEVER,
WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THE SAUDI SIDE TO CARRY THE DISCUSSION
BEYOND THE LEVEL OF GENERALITIES IN A 15 OR 20
MINUTE INTERVIEW.

9. THE EMBASSY WILL RENT VEHICLE FOR CODEL'S TRANSPORTATION
AKINS

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